

Monthly GK Digest

November 2023



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Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in the month of 'Novemebr-2023'. This file is important for, **Bank, SSC, and Railway** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The central government's fiscal deficit touched **39.3 percent** per cent of the full-year target in the first half of the FY 23 slightly higher than 37.3 per cent recorded in the 2022
Note: The fiscal deficit, or the gap between expenditure and revenue, worked out at ₹ 7.02 lakh crore at the end of Sept, as per data released by the Controller General of Accounts. In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 5.9 per cent of the GDP in the 23-24FY.
2. **SBI Card** and Reliance Retail came together to launch the co-branded Reliance Card.
Note: The lifestyle-focused credit card will offer a holistic and rewarding shopping experience to customers. Aim: To leverage the extensive network of SBI Card with the vast consumer reach and unique retail proposition of Reliance Retail to bring a spectrum of exclusive rewards. To unlock rewards and benefits while transacting at Reliance Retail's extensive and many more.
3. Mahindra Finance, part of the Mahindra Group and one of India's leading Non-Banking Finance Company, announced a strategic co-lending partnership with **SBI**.
Note: Aim: To harness the distribution strength of Non-Banking Financial Companies and the cost-efficient capital of banks, ensuring wider outreach and better interest rates for customers. Launched on a pan India level, this partnership is expected to offer affordable solutions to Mahindra Finance customers.
4. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited to opened a branch of the State Bank of India and appreciated its role in supporting corporates in international trade in **Sri Lanka**
Note: She is in the country on a three-day visit, started her day by visiting the main Hindu Temple in the multi-ethnic city to pay homage to it before opening a branch of the State Bank of India in Trincomalee. After inaugurating the branch, She appreciated that SBI is the oldest bank in Sri Lanka
5. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the minimum amount for offering non-callable/without premature withdrawal option term deposits (TDs) from ₹15 lakh to **₹1 crore**.
Note: It means that all domestic term deposits accepted from individuals for amount of ₹1 crore and below shall have premature-withdrawal-facility. The central bank said its instructions in this regard shall also be applicable for Non-Resident Rupee (NRE) Deposit / Ordinary Non-Resident Deposits.
6. ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund's multi-asset fund has turned into a wealth creator for investors by giving an annualised return of **21** percent since its inception in October 2002.
Note: An investor who put in Rs 10 lakh at the time of inception would now be sitting on about Rs 5.5 crore as of Sept. 30, indicating a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 21%. The fund is an open-ended scheme investing in equity, debt and exchange traded commodity derivatives/units of Gold ETFs.
7. The central bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 72 lakh on **PNB**.
Note: Rs 30 lakh on Federal Bank, Rs 13.38 lakh on Kosamattam Finance. PNB received the penalty due to several violations, including levying SMS charges on certain accounts despite maintaining invalid mobile numbers in the Core Banking Solution
8. **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company** became the first Indian life insurance company to get the Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City's International Financial Services Centre Registration.
Note: Aim: To enhance our market presence and capitalize on the customer outreach opportunities at a global level. Its foray into the hi-tech and ultra-modern financial ecosystem of GIFT City IFSC, will empower us to secure lives and create value for our international customers.
9. **RBI** announced that it will discontinue the incremental cash reserve ratio (I-CRR) in a phased manner.

Note: Based on an assessment of current and evolving liquidity conditions, it has been decided that the amounts impounded under the I-CRR would be released in stages so that system liquidity is not subjected to sudden shocks and money markets function in an orderly manner. RBI will release 25% of the I-CRR maintained on September 9 and another 25% on September 23.

10. **HSBC India** has introduced Electronic Bank Guarantee (E-BG) services to facilitate digitization of trade finance.
Note: Aim: To simplify and expedite the guarantee issuance process by introducing electronic stamping and electronic signing, effectively eliminating the need for paper documentation. HSBC is the first foreign bank in the country to offer this facility which is made possible through a collaboration with National E-Governance Services Ltd.
11. The RBI has imposed monetary penalties on **four** co-operative banks and a non-banking financial company for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
Note: The banks are Shree Lodra Nagarik Sahakari Bank, Malpur Nagarik Sahakari Bank, Jolarpet Co-operative Urban Bank, Limbasi Urban Co-operative Bank. The RBI imposed a monetary penalty of ₹4.00 lakh on Shree Lodra Nagarik Sahakari Bank Limited for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and advances to directors'
12. The RBI is expected to start cutting the policy repo rate in early **2024**.
Note: This rate cut is anticipated to happen once the headline inflation in India eases toward the RBI's target of 4%. It is expected that under the assumption of normal monsoons, headline consumer inflation will soften to 5% in fiscal 2024 from the current 6.7%. In May, annual retail inflation in India cooled to a more than two-year low of 4.25% as cost pressures on food eased.
13. **Axis Bank** and the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) have signed MoU to establish the Bank Chair for financial inclusion at IRMA.
Note: Objectives: It include conducting research, fostering closer collaboration between the industry and academia, promoting thought leadership, and advocating for policy development. Aim: To enhance and expedite the advancement of financial inclusion (FI) and financial literacy in India.
14. **PayGlocal** a cross-border focused payments platform provider has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India for Payment Aggregator (PA) license.
Note: To enable PayGlocal to onboard merchants onto its platform for online payment processing. PayGlocal offers its technology platform to various players in the market for payment processing and transaction risk management. This helps them accept online payments securely through various payment instruments

15. Foreign brokerage UBS upgraded its FY24 real GDP growth estimate marginally to **6.3** per cent.
Note: It can be noted that the Reserve Bank has estimated growth to come at 6.5 per cent for FY24, while Governor Shaktikanta Das recently said that the number for the July-September 2023 period will surprise on the upside. The brokerage's chief India economist Tanvee Gupta Jain said domestic economic activities are fairing better than expected.
16. The executive board has approved a proposal to make a **50%** increase in the quota allocated to members in proportion to their current quotas.
Note: The Board of Governors will now consider and vote on the proposal. The proposal will be effective only after consideration and voting by the Board of Governors. The proposal has come after the guidance from the International Monetary and Financial Committee at the 2023 annual meetings.
17. As per Reserve Bank of India, India's Forex reserves surged by 4.672 billion US Dollars to **590.783 billion US Dollars**
Note: This increase took it to a seven-week high mark. Foreign currency assets rose by 4.392 billion US Dollars. The overall value of the gold held was up by 200 million at 46.123 billion US Dollars. The country's special drawing rights increased by 64 million to 17.975 billion US Dollars while its reserve position with the International Monetary Fund rose by 16 million to 4.789 billion US Dollars.
18. **ICICI Bank** received approval from the Reserve Bank of India for making Securities a wholly-owned subsidiary.
Note: In June, the private lender approved a proposal to delist ICICI Securities and become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the bank after delisting. ICICI Securities, promoted by ICICI Bank, is the country's leading retail-led equity franchise, distributor of financial products, and investment bank.
19. Federal Bank signs shuttler **H S Prannoy** for an exclusive collaboration.
Note: H.S. Prannoy, is current world number eight and a recipient of the men's singles bronze medal in the recent Asian Games. He represents the passion of India's Youth to put up the Tri-colour at the topmost pedestal on every given opportunity.
20. **IndusInd Bank** announced that it has gone live as a 'Financial Information Provider' (FIP) under the new 'Account Aggregator Framework' of the RBI.
Note: The initiative is a path breaking step taken by the RBI which will enable individuals as well as small and mid-sized businesses to avail services that will help them fulfil their financial requirements in a seamless way.

21. The Reserve Bank of India Imposed ₹90.92 Lakh Monetary Penalty On Axis Bank

Note: The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹90.92 lakh on private lender Axis Bank and ₹42.78 lakh on gold loan firm Manappuram Finance for violation of certain regulatory norms. The central bank has also imposed a monetary penalty of ₹20 lakh on Anand Rathi Global Finance for non-compliance with certain provisions of the RBI (KYC) Directions, 2016. The fine has been imposed on Axis Bank “for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI

22. The RBI increased the risk weighting for such loans from 100 percent to 125 percent.

Note: The risk weighting for bank loans to higher-rated NBFCs too has been increased by 25 percentage points. The new norms, which take immediate effect, are applicable for new as well as outstanding loans. As the increase in risk weighting will mean banks have to set aside more capital while extending such loans, the lenders in turn could increase the lending rates on such products.

23. Federal Bank has launched UPI Lite to power small-value digital transactions in India.

Note: NPCI introduced UPI Lite a simplified version of the Unified Payments Interface system to cater to the growing demand for faster and more efficient small-value payments.

24. RBI Directs Bajaj Finance bank to Halt Loans for ‘eCOM’ and ‘Insta EMI’ Products.

Note: Bajaj Finance, a leading non-banking finance company (NBFC), faced a setback as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed restrictions on its lending activities under two key products. The central bank specifically instructed the NBFC to cease the sanction and disbursal of loans under its ‘eCOM’ and ‘Insta EMI Card’ products.

25. IndusInd Bank, Suzlon Energy among nine firms added to MSCI India Index.

Note: As many as nine firms, including IndusInd Bank, Suzlon Energy and One 97 Communications, were added to the MSCI India Index. MSCI Global Standard Index is widely used by global fund houses for benchmarking global equities portfolios.

26. IndusInd Bank Launches ‘IndusInd Bank Platinum RuPay Credit Card’ on UPI

Note: IndusInd Bank goes live with RuPay Credit Card on UPI with the launch of ‘IndusInd Bank Platinum RuPay Credit Card’, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India. IndusInd Bank RuPay credit card customers can now conveniently initiate UPI payments by simply linking their credit cards with the UPI-enabled Apps.

27. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of three directors Isha Ambani, Anshuman

Thakur and Hitesh Kumar Sethia of Jio Financial Services.

Note: This approval is valid only for six months from the date of this letter. In case the company fails to give effect to the proposal within this time frame, it will have to apply again with reasons for having failed to effect the change on the earlier occasion.

28. Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed as its managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) -- Ashok Vaswani.

Note: The bank's board has appointed Vaswani for a period of three years, subject to the approval of the members of the bank, according to an exchange filing. The appointment of Vaswani follows the conclusion of Dipak Gupta's term as the Managing Director and CEO of the bank.

29. The Government of India has appointed Vinay M. Tonse as the Managing Director of State Bank of India.

Note: Tonse, currently serving as the deputy MD, was recommended by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau. The final decision on the FSIB recommendation has been taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

30. ACKO Partners with a Bollywood hero R Madhavan as their 'Voice of the Customer'.

Note: This signifies a welcome shift in the way consumers have been perceiving and navigating insurance, a sector that has been operating at a trust deficit in India. Aim: To ensure that its customers can rely on the brand for a transparent and dependable insurance experience.

31. The government cancelled the bid process for the appointment of an asset valuer for strategic sale-bound on low bidder interest -- IDBI Bank.

Note: A fresh Request For Proposal (RFP) would be invited soon after a review of some of the bid criteria to enable better interest from bidders. It has been decided with the approval of the competent authority to cancel the present RFP and to issue a fresh RFP for selection of an asset valuer for strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank Ltd.

32. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, EPFO has added 17.21 lakh members during September 2023.

Note: This is an increase of 21 thousand 475 net members over the previous month of August. EPFO's provisional payroll data released today reveals that around 8.92 lakh new members have enrolled during September. The age-group of 18 to 25 years constitutes 58.92 percent of total new members added during the month.

33. Karnataka Bank Ltd.'s shares were up by 0.30 per cent after the company entered a corporate alliance with Insurance Company Ltd to distribute life insurance products -- HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd.

Note: Aim: To provide Karnataka Bank's customers a range of financial solutions by leveraging the bank's experience and HDFC Life's expertise in life insurance. The partnership focuses on delivering benefits related to financial security and life protection to customers.

34. **Nippon Life India Asset Management** has joined the likes of Centrum and Avendus to capitalise on the demand for private credit amid.

Note: Nippon Life India Alternative Investment Fund, which is set to raise ₹1,000 crore, has already deployed ₹100 crore in two strategic deals and aims to secure an additional ₹1,000 crore through a green shoe option. Nippon is raising funds from investors like high net-worth investors and family offices.

35. The Reserve Bank of India had superseded the board of Bank for a period of 12 months -- **Abhyudaya Cooperative Bank.**

Note: It also appointed Satya Prakash Pathak, former Chief General Manager of State Bank of India as the 'Administrator' to manage the affairs of the bank during this period. This action was necessitated due to "certain material concerns emanating from poor governance standards observed in the bank".

36. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty aggregating ₹10.34 crore on **three banks.**

Note: Citibank NA (₹5 crore), Bank of Baroda (₹4.34 crore) and Indian Overseas Bank (₹1 crore) —for non-

compliance with some of its Directions. Citibank, Bank of Baroda and Indian Overseas Bank penalised for not adhering to KYC, AML, CRILC, Loans & Advances, and Interest Rate on Deposits Directions.

37. Kotak Mahindra Bank collaborates with Information Utility to issue electronic Bank Guarantee -- **NeSL.**

Note: This collaboration is poised to usher in the era of digital trade, effectively eliminating the traditional paper-based issuance of Bank Guarantees. This new approach enables guarantees to be processed in just a few hours, a stark improvement compared to the two to three working days required by the conventional paper-based method.

38. Mastercard And U GRO Capital Collaborate for **MSME Financing**

Note: Mastercard, a global technology company in the payments industry, has tied up with U GRO Capital, a NBFC specialising in MSME financing, to extend financing solution to small businesses in India that require financial support to maintain and grow their operations.

39. Global rating agency S&P Global Ratings has revised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projection for financial year 2024 -- **6.4 percent.**

Note: S&P Global Ratings is a market leader in the field of credit risk research. However, it lowered the growth projection for financial year 2025 to 6.4% from 6.9% earlier.

Obituaries

1. Gieve Patel passed away at the age of 83 was associated with **Painter**

Note: Gieve Patel, who had been battling cancer, was admitted to the Pune center a few weeks ago. He leaves behind a legacy of remarkable contributions as a playwright, poet, painter, and physician.

2. Thomas Kenneth Mattingly II, has died at the age of 87 was associated with **Astronomy.**

Note: Starting his career with the US Navy, Mattingly, who went by Ken and TK, eventually joined the Air Force Aerospace Research Pilot School as a student, before being chosen by NASA to be part of the astronaut class in 1966.

3. Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya, passed away in Mumbai was a **leader**

Note: Acharya was born in Udupi, Karnataka, in 1931. After graduation, he worked in Mumbai and was associated with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He was also a member of the Mumbai University's senate and completed an LL.B degree from Mumbai University.

4. Chandra Mohan (82-years) passed away at a private Hospital in Hyderabad was a **Telugu actor**

Note: Mohan acted in more than 900 films and played lead roles in more than 150 films. He acted in 'Rangula Ratnam' in 1966, for which he won the state government's Nandi Award for best actor. His first Tamil film was Naalai Namadhe (1975).

5. Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi aka 'Biki', passed away was a **Businessman.**

Note: He was 94 years old. He was the Executive Chairman of EIH Limited, the Flagship Company of The Oberoi Group, and the Chairman of Oberoi Hotels Private Limited, the major shareholder of EIH Limited. Popularly known as the man who changed the outlook of the hotel business in India.

6. Sahara Group Founder **Subrata Roy** passes away at 75 after prolonged illness.

Note: Sahara Group's visionary founder and chairman, Subrata Roy, breathed his last at the age of 75 in a Mumbai hospital. The news comes after a prolonged battle with illness, as stated in an official company announcement. Subrata Roy's remarkable journey began in 1978 when he initiated Sahara India Pariwar with a mere capital of ₹2,000.

7. Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **S Venkitaramanan** passed at the age of 92 years.

Note: He is survived by his two daughters, Girija and Sudha, along with their respective families. Venkitaramanan was the 18th Governor of the RBI,

serving for two years from 1990 to 1992. Prior to this, he was Finance Secretary in the Ministry of Finance from 1985 to 1989.

Important Days

1. World Vegan Day is celebrated every year on **1st November**.

Note: The theme of 'World Vegan Day 2023' is "Celebrating for a Good Cause". Aim: To spread awareness among people about the advantages of a vegan diet on health and well-being. A vegan diet consists of eliminating all animal products, including meat, eggs, poultry, and other items derived from animals.

2. Grand events marked the formation day celebrations across seven states and two Union Territories on **November 1**.

Note: The states celebrating the formation day today are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab. The Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry are also celebrating their formation day. Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and MP came into being in 1956, Punjab and Haryana were carved out as separate states in 1966

3. World Jellyfish Day is celebrated on **November 3rd**
Note: They are often misunderstood and feared, but they play a vital role in the food chain and help to keep the ocean healthy. They are gelatinous creatures that come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colours can be found in all of the world's oceans, from the surface to the deep sea. Some jellyfish are harmless and some can have venomous stings.

4. World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed on **5th November**

Note: Aim: To raise consciousness about reducing the risks created by these giant waves and improving community preparedness. World Tsunami Awareness Day theme 2023 is "Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future," which mirrors the subject highlighted during the International Day for Disaster Reduction.

5. The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is a global day observed on **November 6**.

Note: Aim: To raise awareness about the devastating effects of war on the environment. Theme 2023: Together for a more sustainable and peaceful future. This day reminds us of the importance of protecting our environment from the damage caused by war and armed conflicts in different regions of the world.

6. National Cancer Awareness Day in India is observed on **7th November**.

Note: Aim: To spread awareness around the types of cancer, need for early detection, and important lifestyle changes. The theme of National Cancer Awareness Day 2023 is Close the care gap. According to WHO, cancer is a

large group of diseases that can start in any organ or tissue of the body and occurs when abnormal cells grow uncontrollably and even spread to other body parts.

7. World Radiography Day is observed each year on **November 8**.

Note: To commemorate the discovery of x-radiation by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen in 1895. The theme chosen for World Radiography Day 2023 is "Celebrating Patient Safety. Aim: To honoring the field of radiography, acknowledge the crucial contributions of radiographers, and emphasize the importance of medical imaging in contemporary healthcare.

8. World Usability Day is celebrated annually on the second Thursday in **November**.

Note: Aim: To promotes the values of usability, usability engineering, user-centered design, universal usability, and every user's obligation to demand better things. This year's World Usability Day 2023 Theme is "Collaboration and Cooperation". Professionals will talk about current concerns such as care continuity, treatment access.

9. National Legal Services Day is observed every year on **9th November**

Note: To commemorate the commencement of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which came into force on 9th November 1995. Aim: To make people aware of the various services provided by Legal Services Authorities. On National Legal Services Day, legal awareness camps are held by State Legal Services Authorities across the country to apprise people about the availability of free legal aid.

10. National Education Day is observed every year on **November 11**

Note: Across India to mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was the first education minister of independent India. He served as the education minister from August 15, 1947 to February 2, 1958. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad established the first Indian Institute of Technology – IIT Kharagpur. Maulana Azad was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1992

11. World Kindness Day is observed annually on **November 13**

Note: To promotes acts of kindness to foster compassion, empathy, and goodwill worldwide. Aim: To inspire people to incorporate good deeds into their daily lives. World Kindness Day 2023 theme is "Be Kind Wherever Possible. This day encourages people and societies across the world to engage in acts of big or small kindness to make a more compassionate and peaceful world.

12. World Diabetes Day is observed around the globe on **November 14th**
Note: Aim: To raises awareness and provides education concerning a disease that affects over 400 million adults internationally. The theme for 2023 is 'Access to diabetes care' Diabetes is a metabolic disease that causes high blood sugar levels. It is also a leading cause of blindness, heart disease, and kidney disease. Besides causing severe medical issues, the condition also causes millions of premature deaths each year.
13. Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the celebration of 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' at Birsa College, Khunti, Jharkhand, on **15th November**.
Note: Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, also known as Tribal Pride Day, is celebrated to honor the birth anniversary of the revered tribal freedom fighter, Birsa Munda.
14. World Philosophy Day 2023 being Celebrates on **16th November**.
Note: World Philosophy Day, observed annually on the third Thursday of November, stands as a testament to the enduring significance of philosophy in the development of human thought, cultural enrichment, and individual growth. This year World Philosophy Day observed on 16th November.
15. National Press Day, observed every year in India on **16th November**.
Note: National Press Day serves as a crucial occasion to reflect on the role of the press in a democratic society and to appreciate the efforts of journalists in upholding journalistic values. Theme **"Media in the Era of Artificial Intelligence,"**.
16. International Day for Tolerance 2023 Observed every year on **16th November**.
Note: It serves as a global platform to champion tolerance, respect, and understanding among people of diverse backgrounds and cultures. In 2023, the theme is "Tolerance: A Path to Peace and Reconciliation," emphasizing the pivotal role of tolerance in building peaceful and inclusive societies.
17. The World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week is taking place from **November 18 to 24, 2023**.
Note: The theme 'Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together.'
18. International Students' Day 2023, observed worldwide on **17th November**.
Note: It is a special occasion that acknowledges the resilience and contributions of students globally.
19. National Epilepsy Day 2023 celebrates every year to raise awareness about epilepsy and its impact on individuals, families, and society November 17
Note: Epilepsy is a condition where unexpected and distressing seizures occur, impacting a person's control over their movements, sounds, and sensations.
20. World Prematurity Day is annually observed for premature infants -- **17th November**.
Note: Premature birth is a significant global health concern, often leading to infant deaths and various health complications. The theme for this year is 'Small actions, big impact: Immediate skin-to-skin care for every baby everywhere.'
21. The United Nations has designated as the "World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence -- **18th November**.
Note: This day serves as a global initiative to address the pervasive issue of child sexual exploitation, abuse, and violence that affects countless young individuals worldwide.
22. The day marks the International Men's Day 2023 -- **19th November**.
Note: This day serves as a global platform to recognize and celebrate the positive contributions of men to society. Theme: Zero Male Suicide
23. Women's Entrepreneurship Day is observed annually on **19th November**.
Note: This day serves as a platform to acknowledge the significant contributions of women in the business world, foster gender-inclusive entrepreneurship, and inspire the next generation of female leaders.
24. World Television Day, observed globally on **21st November**
Note: Television was invented by John Logie Baird in 1924, and in India. It was introduced on September 15, 1959, with the help of UNESCO.
25. World Television Day is globally observed to highlight the importance of the visual medium -- **21st November**.
Note: The theme for this year's edition is 'Accessibility'. On this day in 1996, the United Nations held the First World Television Forum and decided to observe 21st November every year as World Television Day.
26. Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh whose martyrdom day is commemorated on **24th November**.
Note: He became the 9th Guru of the Sikhs in 1665. Gurudwara Sheesh Ganj Sahib is located in Chandni Chowk, Delhi.
27. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is celebrated every year on **25th November**.
Note: This year's theme, "UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls", emphasises the need to fund prevention strategies proactively to stop gender-based violence.
28. India celebrates National Milk Day to commemorate the efforts of **Dr Verghese Kurien**.
Note: Dr. Kurien was the father of the White Revolution in India and introduced 'Operation Flood,' under which dairy production was industrialized to improve milk production in the country. The theme for National Milk Day is flexible and is a part of the broader concept of stressing the general importance of consuming milk.
29. Constitution Day is celebrated every year in India -- 26th November.
Note: The constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949, and it came into effect on 26th January 1950.

30. Sikhs celebrate 554th Prakash Purb of Sri Guru Nanak Dev -- **27th November**.
Note: Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism, was born on Kartik Purnamashi, in 1469 in the village of Talwandi (now Nankana Sahib). This year marks the 554th anniversary of his birth, celebrated as Prakash Purb by Sikhs around the world.
31. National Cadet Corps (NCC), the youth wing of the Indian Armed Forces, is set to celebrate its 75th anniversary -- **27th November**.
Note: NCC Day is observed annually to commemorate the core values encapsulated in the NCC motto, "Unity and Discipline." The motto of the NCC, Unity and Discipline, encapsulates the values of duty, loyalty, dedication, and self-sacrifice.
32. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People 2023 is observed every year on **29 November** across the globe.
Note: The day aims to spread more awareness about the issues faced by the Palestinian people along with promoting a peaceful Palestine-Israel resolution. Since 1978, the United Nations has commemorated the day as a way to express solidarity with the people of Palestine while the peace and resolution process remains stalled.
33. International Jaguar Day is observed every year on **29th November** across the globe.
Note: It is a day to pay tribute to the largest cats and find ways to protect them. It is important to note that the word 'Jaguar' derives from an indigenous word that means "he who kills with one leap". A jaguar is an enigmatic animal whose existence is threatened.

New Appointments

1. **Shekhar Kapur** will be the jury head for the international competition of the International Film Festival of India 2023 in Goa.
Note: The five-member jury also includes cinematographer Jose Luis Alcaine, producers Jerome Paillard, Catherine Dussart and Helen Leake. The International Jury will select the winner of the coveted best film award which includes the Golden Peacock, Rs 40 lakh monetary component and certificates for the director and producer.
2. **Deepesh Nanda** has been appointed as President-Renewables and CEO & MD of its subsidiary Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL).
Note: His appointment is effective November 1, 2023. He will be responsible for driving the growth and profitability of Tata Power's renewable energy portfolio, which encompasses solar, wind, hybrid, and B2C green energy solutions. He will also lead innovation and digital transformation initiatives in the renewable energy sector.
3. Bank of Baroda appoints **Kadgatoor Sheetal Venkatesmurt** as the Head of Digital Channels.
Note: The move reflects the bank's commitment to strengthening its digital initiatives. Aspiring candidates for banking exams need to stay updated on industry-specific developments. It highlights the impact of technology and digitalization on the banking sector. The 'Digital India' initiative has been a catalyst for the digital transformation in the banking industry.
4. RBI has appointed **Manoranjan Mishra** as Executive Director (ED) with effect from November 01, 2023
Note: Prior to being promoted to ED, he was serving as Chief General Manager in the Department of Regulation. Mishra has experience of over three decades in the RBI, having worked in the areas of regulation of banks and NBFCs, supervision of banks and currency management. He has served as a member in several working groups at the national and international levels.
5. Bank of Maharashtra announced the appointment of **Rohit Rishi** as Executive Director on the company's Board, with effect from November 1, 2023.
Note: He replaced A.B. Vijayakumar. Rohit Rishi started his banking career as Industrial Development Officer in Indian Bank in July 1995 and has over 28 years of experience working in diversified areas of banking. During his tenure, he worked in all key banking functions in various capacities mainly in credit management.
6. The National Payments Corporation of India has announced the appointment **Pankaj Tripathi** as its 'UPI Safety Ambassador.'
Note: Aim: To strengthen safety awareness on digital payment platforms. This move comes in the wake of ongoing discussions regarding the safety and security of digital payment platforms, particularly United Payments Interface. NPCI's initiatives such as UPI, RuPay, and IMPS, reach the farthest corners of India, including cities, and villages.
7. **Santosh Kumar Jha** is set to be the next Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), a PSU under the Ministry of Railways.
Note: Jha is an Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS) officer of the 1992 batch. He has rich experience over 28 years of experience in operations, infrastructure planning, and business development. He has hands-on experience as head of operations on major divisions of Indian Railways.
8. **Harjinder Singh Dhami** has been re-elected as the President of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) in Punjab.
Note: Dhami won the election with 118 out of 137 votes cast, securing a third consecutive term. The SGPC is the topmost body representing Sikhs.

9. U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak appointed former **Minister David Cameron** as Foreign Secretary.
Note: He replaced Braverman as the interior minister. He was given the mandate to change and modernise the Conservative Party and was elected its leader in December 2005, following the party's weak electoral performance. Cameron became Prime Minister, making him the youngest UK PM in 198 years at the age of 43.
10. **Amit S Telang** appointed as Indian envoy to the Caribbean Community.
Note: The Ministry of External Affairs has announced that Amit S Telang has been concurrently accredited as the Indian Ambassador to the Caribbean Community and High Commissioner to the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda. Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Anil Kumar Rai has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
11. US President Joe Biden appointed Shakuntala Bhaya to the Administrative Conference of US.
Note: Joe Biden has appointed Indian American Shakuntla L Bhaya to serve in a key role. Bhaya was appointed as a member of the Council of the Administrative Conference of the United States. It is among the several new appointments announced by Biden.
12. Argentina elected right-wing libertarian Javier Milei as its new **President**.
Note: Milei is pledging economic shock therapy. His plans include shutting the central bank, ditching the peso, and slashing spending, potentially painful reforms that resonated with voters angry at the economic malaise. Milei has been particularly popular among the young, who have grown up seeing their country lurch from one crisis to another.
13. **Luc Frieden** has officially been sworn in as Luxembourg prime minister.
Note: Frieden's CSV party won 21 seats and Bettel's DP took 14 seats in the Chamber of Deputies (out of 60 MPs) during the national elections in October.
14. Comptroller and Auditor General of India **Girish Chandra Murmu** has been elected vice-chair of the UN Panel of External Auditors.
Note: This recognition underscores India's commitment to the highest standards of external audit and its active participation in shaping the global audit landscape. Murmu participated in the sixty-third session of the Panel of External Auditors, held at the UN headquarters in New York from 20-21 November 2023.
15. Bandhan Bank's board appointed the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD&CEO) **Chandra Shekhar Ghosh** for a period of three years.
Note: Ghosh has more than three decades of experience in microfinance, banking, and development. On October 18, Bandhan Bank reported a net profit of Rs 721.20 crore in the July-September quarter of the current financial year, up 244 percent YoY, from Rs 209.3 crore in the corresponding period last year.
16. Mahindra Group's CEO **Anish Shah** has been appointed as the President-elect of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
Note: Shah will succeed Subhrakant Panda, who is the Managing Director of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd. He is also the Managing Director of M&M, the parent company of the Mahindra Group. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group based in India.
17. Fino Payments Bank has appointment **Rajat Kumar Jain** as Part-time Chairman of the Bank.
Note: Fino started operations in 2017, receiving an RBI license two years earlier. The appointment comes at a time when the payments bank is charting out its digital growth plans and targets for the next phase, Fino 2.0.
18. Sri Lanka Tourism Minister Harin Fernando was also sworn in as the **Minister of Youth Affairs**.
Note: He replaced sacked Minister Roshan Ranasinghe. Meanwhile, Pavithra Wanniarachchi was sworn in as the Minister of Irrigation.
19. HDFC Bank appoints former NABARD chairman as director **Harsh Kumar Bhanwala as Chairman**.
Note: Board also approved the appointment of V Srinivasa Rangan, chief financial officer of erstwhile Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd, as executive director for three years with effect from November 23, 2023. Currently, Non-Executive Chairman of MCX, Bhanwala also serves as the Director on the boards of IIM Rohtak and Bayer Crop Science Ltd.
20. **Christopher Luxon** has been sworn in as New Zealand's prime minister.
Note: The swearing-in ceremony was presided over by Governor-General Cindy Kiro. Luxon leads a conservative coalition after his National Party struck a deal on Friday with two smaller parties following a general election last month. Under the coalition agreement, Luxon has promised to deliver tax cuts and less government bureaucracy, including a 6.5% cut to the public service.

Important News – International

1. UM of Education Dharmendra and **UAE** signed an MoU to strengthen existing educational cooperation between the two countries.
Note: Aim: To facilitate student and faculty mobility, joint research programmes, and educational exhibitions in areas of mutual interest held in both countries. UAE being a global economic hotspot and India being a global

- talent hotspot, both sides should work together to build a knowledge bridge to cement our civilisational connect.
2. **Thailand** is scrapping visas for scores of Indian tourists in order to rekindle the fire in its tourism sector.
Note: Taiwan has also been included in the plan in a bid to draw in more tourists as the high season approaches. Thailand in September scrapped visa requirements for Chinese tourists. India has been Thailand's fourth largest source market for tourism so far this year with about 1.2 million arrivals after Malaysia, China and South Korea.
 3. A Chinese communist party delegation has visited the **Solomon Islands**, calling the "flourishing" cooperation between China and the Pacific nation a show of how diplomatic ties were in their peoples' interest.
Note: The delegation led by the deputy head of the international department under China's Communist Party central committee, Guo Yezhou, met Solomon Islands. The delegation also met the foreign minister and energy minister.
 4. Collins Dictionary has named "**AI**" as its word of the year.
Note: Considered to be the next great technological revolution, AI has seen rapid development and has been much talked about in 2023," the UK-based dictionary publisher. While AI's capabilities in mimicking human speech fascinated people at first, they were also the source of some anxiety.
 5. India and **Netherlands** have signed a Memorandum of Intent (MoI) to cooperate on medical product regulation and enhance the quality of medical products and healthcare services.
Note: An Indian delegation led by Shri Khuba is in Netherlands to participate in the second World Local Production Forum (WLPF) meeting being held in The Hague. Aim: To increase access to medicines and other health technologies.
 6. The world's newest island has been formed off the coast of the **Japanese** island of Iwo Jima in the Pacific Ocean following an undersea volcanic eruption around 1,200 km south.
Note: It located about 1 km off the southern coast of Iwo Jima, started its latest series of eruptions on October 21. The unnamed island was formed after it rose from the ocean and was documented in pictures taken by the country's Maritime Self-Defense Force on November 1.
 7. **India** will host the 33rd Conference of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Commission for Asia and Pacific.
Note: The challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic emphasize the crucial role of scientific expertise in assessing risks at the human-animal-environment interface. It also underscores the necessity to enhance resilience and capacity in Veterinary Services for future challenges.
 8. **Falguni Shah** has been nominated in the Best Global Music Performance category for Grammy awards 2024.
Note: The song features Indian-American Grammy-winning singer Falu and her husband and singer Gaurav Shah. The track, titled Abundance of Millets, talks about the health benefits and the government's efforts to promote the cereal.
 9. **Samsung** mobile company smartphone maker has launched its set of generative at the company's AI Forum 2023.
Note: Developed by Samsung Research, Gauss consists of three tools: a generative AI model called Samsung Gauss Language, a coding assistant called Samsung Gauss Code. The generative AI model "is named after Carl Friedrich Gauss, the legendary mathematician who established normal distribution theory, the backbone of machine learning and AI."
 10. A global company has recently announced that it has hired the first ever humanoid robot as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) named **Mika**
Note: Polish rum company Dictador announced that it has appointed AI-powered humanoid robot 'Mika' to lead the firm. As the first CEO female robot, Mika is a board member who steers operations on Dictador's behalf. This first human-like robot, with AI, in a company structure, will change the world as we know it, forever.
 11. **Nepal** announced it will ban Chinese social media platform TikTok citing its 'negative effects' on social harmony.
Note: A large section of the Nepalese society has slammed TikTok, accusing it of encouraging a tendency of hate speech. In the past four years, at least 1,647 cases of cyber crime have been reported on the app. The decision to ban the platform will be enforced after the completion of technical preparations.
 12. The South Korea and **United states** have revised a bilateral security agreement aimed at deterring North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile threat.
Note: Aim: To counter the threat of nuclear weapons and other armaments by North Korea. The strategy, which holds that the United states will use strategic military assets, including nuclear forces, to defend its allies, has taken on a greater significance as North Korea pushes ahead with its ballistic missile and nuclear programs.
 13. **New Zealand** launched a new interactive map to restore a minimum of 15 percent local biodiversity within every catchment in the next nearly 100 years.
Note: Aim: To provides a tool for those seeking to make strategically significant investment decisions on biodiversity redress. The interactive map from Eco-index includes information on the type of habitat that existed there historically and targets for restoring 15 percent of biodiversity in each area.
 14. The second edition of the Global Media Congress commences at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Organised by **Emirates News Agency**.
Note: The opening ceremony was AI infused , with virtual anchors and avatars guiding the proceedings, adding a futuristic touch to the inauguration. Five new features include an innovation and startups platform, a dedicated training and education platform, and sessions

discussing challenges and opportunities in the media sector.

15. Indian skydiver **Shital Mahajan** jumped off a helicopter from the height of 21,500 ft in front of the world's highest peak, Mt Everest.

Note: She became the first woman to do so. Mahajan landed at Kalapatthar peak at an altitude 17,444ft. Mahajan is a well-known Indian skydiver who holds several skydiving records and is the recipient of the fourth highest civilian award, the Padma Shri in 2001.

16. The country inaugurated the world's largest single-site solar power plant ahead of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in **United Arab Emirates**.

Note: The 2-gigawatt Al Dhafra Solar Photovoltaic Independent Power Project (IPP) is located 35 kilometers from Abu Dhabi city and will generate enough electricity to power almost 200,000 homes. The plant is expected to displace 2.4 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

17. The Indian Mission to ASEAN, along with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, is hosting the ASEAN-India Millet Festival in **Jakarta**.

Note: Jayant Khobragade, Indian Ambassador to ASEAN, highlighted the importance of the ASEAN-India Millet Festival and strengthening India-ASEAN relations.

18. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has given the nod to a USD 170 million loan aimed at modernizing water supply services in **Kochi**.

Note: According to ADB, this move is expected to play a pivotal role in elevating urban living standards, ensuring clean water access, and bolstering climate resilience. Kochi, often referred to as the commercial capital of Kerala, has witnessed rapid urbanization, making it one of India's fastest-growing urban centres.

19. The International Sugar Organization (ISO) announced that **India** will be the Chair of the organization for the year 2024.

Note: India was led by Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra at the 63rd Council Meeting of ISO. India's top priority will be to take decisions with the support and cooperation of all Member States during its Presidency of ISO in 2024. ISO is a unique intergovernmental organization established in 1968 by the International Sugar Agreement.

20. **Malaysia** will grant a 30-day visa-free entry for Indian and Chinese citizens from December 1.

Note: Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has announced joining Thailand and Sri Lanka in recent weeks to offer such a facility to foreigners to promote tourism. Mr. Ibrahim said the waiver was an additional facility to the existing visa exemptions currently enjoyed by Gulf nations and other West Asian countries, including Türkiye and Jordan.

Important News - India

1. Union Minister of State for Skill Development Rajeev Chandrasekhar participated in the "AI Safety Summit 2023" that is scheduled to be held in **United Kingdom**

Note: It will bring together Ministers and representatives from various countries, including the UK, Australia, Canada, France among others. Aim: To enhance the lives of its citizens while emphasizing the importance of effectively addressing user harm and mitigating risks.

2. PM Narendra Modi launched 'Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)' platform for the youth of the country on October 31st, at Kartavya Path on **National Unity Day**.

Note: THE VISION: 'Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)' is envisioned as a pivotal, technology-driven facilitator for youth development and youth-led development, with the overarching goal to provide equitable opportunities to empower the youth in realizing their aspirations and contributing to the creation of a "Viksit Bharat".

3. **Nokia** has teamed up with broadband provider Tata Play Fiber to roll out India's first WiFi6-ready broadband network.

Note: As part of the deal, the Finnish gear maker will provide Tata Play Fiber with a variety of fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) and WiFi equipment, including optical line terminal (OLT) and optical network terminal (ONT) with

WiFi6. The partnership with Nokia allows us to bring Wi-Fi6-ready network to our customers - which is a first in the category.

4. **National Medical Commission** for medical education and medical professionals, is all set to launch its "one nation, one registration platform" for doctors across the country.

Note: Aim: To eliminate duplication and red tape and allow the public to access information on any physician working in India. The NMC will unveil a patch pilot of the National Medical Register in the next six months where doctors will be allotted a unique identification number

5. Ashwini Vaishnaw and H.E. Houlin Zhao, Secretary General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) signed the Host Country Agreement for the establishment of an Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in **New Delhi**.

Note: ITU is the United Nations specialised agency for information and communication technologies - ICTs. ITU currently has a membership of 193 countries and over 900 private-sector entities and academic institutions.

6. Energy **Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** launched its groundbreaking National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP) and Energy Efficient Fans Programme (EEFP) in New Delhi.

- Note:** Aim: To revolutionize cooking practices in India and emphasize on the importance and urgency of energy efficient fans. As part of these programmes, EESL will distribute 1 crore efficient BLDC fans and 20 Lakh energy-efficient induction cook stoves nationwide.
7. **NITI Aayog** organized a workshop on India-AU Collaboration for a Better Inclusive World in partnership with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) at the Taj Palace, New Delhi
Note: The participants had in-depth discussions on three key themes: Indo-AU collaboration for an inclusive world. Indo-AU collaboration for sustainable and resilient infrastructure. Managing Migration: The role of Indo-AU Partnership
 8. India and **Bangladesh** launched two new railway links and a thermal power plant unit to strengthen connections and energy security in the region amid strong opposition protests.
Note: India provided \$47.8 million for a cross-border train link and a \$388.92 million concessional line of credit for the Khulna-Mongla port rail line in Bangladesh. India provided another \$1.6 billion for Bangladesh's 1,320-megawatt super thermal power project
 9. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and M/o Public Sector Transformation & the Civil Service of the **French Republic** signed the Letter of Intent for Cooperation in the field of Public Administration and Administrative Reforms for 3 years.
Note: Aim: To strengthen the bilateral partnership between the two countries through exchange visits focused on administrative reforms, good governance webinars, institutional exchanges, capacity-building programs
 10. India has approved its first 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in the defence sector, permitting **Sweden**
Note: The FDI proposal, valued at less than Rs 500 crore, was given the green light last month, according to an ET report. India currently allows up to 74% FDI in the defence sector through the automatic route, with clearances beyond that available on a case-by-case basis.
 11. **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** is all set to unveil a progressive initiative "Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign".
Note: Under its flagship scheme - Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, in partnership with the Ministry's National Urban Livelihood Mission and Odisha Urban Academy is the knowledge partner. Aim: To provide a platform for inclusion of women in water governance. This campaign celebrates "Jal Diwali" from, 7th Nov, 2023.
 12. **Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)** has become India's largest green energy company as it reached the 8.4 gigawatts (GW) installed capacity mark last week
Note: Company executives told this paper that AGEL commissioned a 0.15 GW solar power park in Rajasthan, which helped it surpass the 5 GW capacity for solar and 8.4 GW overall. Among its peers, ReNew is closest with 8.3 GW, followed by Tata Power and Greenko Energies with close to 4 GW capacity each.
 13. A recent global survey has ranked **Turkey** topped and India at second spot while keeping Japan at lowest for employees.
Note: The survey was conducted by McKinsey Health Institute, and it assessed employees' physical, mental, social and spiritual health before arriving at the conclusions. Turkey scored highest at 78%, followed by India at 76% and China at 75 %, way higher than the global average of 57 per cent. Japan scored a mere 25 per cent in the poll.
 14. **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** became the first Indian Institute of Technology to set up an international campus, by launching a campus in Tanzania.
Note: India and the East African nation had recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU). Aim: To take the top-quality education system of India to international arenas. The Zanzibar Campus, IIT Madras, will be on Zanzibar Island, off the East African mainland and part of the Tanzanian republic.
 15. **Peking University of China** scored top rank in Asia in QS Asia University Rankings 2024.
Note: While the University of Hong Kong ascended to second place, and the National University of Singapore (NUS) claimed the third spot. Two Indian institutions, IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi, secured positions within the top 50. IIT Bombay secured the 40th position in the Asian rankings.
 16. The Central government has launched a new wheat flour scheme called 'Bharat Atta' at a subsidized price of **Rs 27.50 per kg**.
Note: Aim: To provide affordable wheat flour to the poor and vulnerable sections of society. Bharat Atta is a fortified wheat flour that is made with a blend of wheat, rice, and pulses. The scheme will be implemented through the Public Distribution System (PDS), ensuring easy access to affordable wheat flour for the target population.
 17. **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** under the aegis of Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) successfully organised "BHEL SAMVAAD 3.0".
Note: अनुसन्धान से आत्मनिर्भरता की ओर, BHEL की एक और पहल" the 3rd edition of its dialogue with domestic business partners, industry associations, academia and research institutes to promote local suppliers, at Bharat Mandapam. Five pillars of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (economy, infrastructure, systems, vibrant demography and demand)
 18. **Union Skill Development Ministry** is setting up the IIS to enhance the quality of skilling and to provide high-end skilling in new-age courses.
Note: The training will be given at the Indian Institute of Skills (IIS), Kanpur. The Ministry also signed a MoU with Hindustan Aeronautical Limited to provide training on

- computer numerical control machines. Minister signed one MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur.
19. **DY Chandrachud** inaugurated Mitti Café, an establishment entirely run by disabled persons, in the Supreme Court premises.
Note: This cafe stands out for being entirely managed by individuals with disabilities, encompassing those who are visually impaired, have cerebral palsy, and are paraplegic.
 20. India ranked 117th in the list of 129 countries in the world in the inclusiveness index published at California University, United States.
Note: New Zealand finished first in the index for the second consecutive year. Portugal recorded its best showing by securing second place followed by the Netherlands in third place. The index examines inclusivity in terms of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and the general population using several measures.
 21. **Ashok Leyland** becomes the first Indian Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to unveil an in-house LNG engine -powered haulage truck - AVTR 1922 compliant with BSVI Stage II emission standards.
Note: The AVTR 1922, powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), is built on the AVTR platform and shares a high degree of commonality with Ashok Leyland's existing diesel truck range. This ensures that our customers benefit from streamlined service and maintenance processes.
 22. **Jio Satellite Communications Ltd and Eutelsat OneWeb** have been granted the requisite licences to provide satellite internet services in India.
Note: Both companies hold the GMPCS (Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite) licence, alongside a pan-India ISP (Internet Service Provider) licence. As reported by the Financial Express, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) allocated ISP-A and a VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) licence to OneWeb.
 23. Asia-Pacific Airlines Aim for 5% Green Fuel Usage By 2030.
Note: The Association of Asia-Pacific Airlines (AAPA) has set a target for its members to adopt 5% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) usage by 2030 to reduce carbon emissions, signalling demand to fuel producers. The decision was announced at the association's 67th assembly of presidents, highlighting challenges such as limited SAF availability and cost. The industry is stressing that our position is feedstock and pathway agnostic.
 24. India and **ADB** Ink \$400 Million Deal For Urban Infrastructure Development.
Note: To create high-quality urban infrastructure, improve service delivery, and promote efficient governance systems. Objective: To make cities livable and centres of economic growth through the provisioning of inclusive, resilient and sustainable infrastructure.
 25. PM Modi launched PVTG Development Mission on the occasion of third Janjaatiya Gaurav Diwas in **Jharkhand**.
Note: He also launch 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' to ensure saturation of flagship govt schemes. To reach out to people and create awareness and provide benefits of welfare schemes like sanitation facilities, essential financial services, electricity connections, reliable healthcare, clean drinking water and others.
 26. Indian Railways in collaboration with IRCTC to launch **Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train**.
Note: Indian Railways, in collaboration with IRCTC, is set to launch the Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train to promote Dekho Apna Desh and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiatives. To showcase India's rich cultural and religious heritage to both domestic and international tourists. It informed that halts for boarding and deboarding include major stations like Thane, Pune, Solapur, Kanyakumari, and more.
 27. India signed with **USA** with the objective of connecting both the countries' dynamic startup ecosystems, particularly in critical and emerging technologies (CET).
Note: The understanding named 'Enhancing Innovation Ecosystems through an Innovation Handshake' was signed by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal from the Indian side, who is on a 4-day US visit. To poised to positively impact economic activity, attract investment, and generate employment.
 28. India is expected to maintain its curbs on overseas sales well into 2024.
Note: Lower prices and ample stockpiles have helped make India one of the top shippers globally over the past decade, recently accounting for almost 40% of the total. African nations like Benin and Senegal are among the top buyers.
 29. The first ever Global Fisheries Conference India 2023 kicked off in **Ahmedabad**.
Note: The High-level delegations from about 10 countries, delegates from International Organizations, Fisheries Associations were present at the inaugural session. The conference is being organized by the Department of Fisheries Government of India on the occasion of World Fisheries Day to bring together all the stakeholders for a sustainable fisheries sector. **Ghol** घोल fish was declared as State fish of Gujarat.
 30. Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in **Goa**.
Note: The opening movie of this year's IFFI was British film 'Catching Dust'. This year's IFFI has received 2926 entries from 105 countries, which is three times more international submissions than last year. 13 World Premieres, 18 International Premieres, 62 Asia Premiers and 89 India Premieres will be screened during the festival.

31. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 'Mirabai Janmotsav' celebrations in **Mathura**.
Note: During the festival, PM Modi will participate in cultural programmes and release a stamp and a coin in honour of Mirabai. The event would mark year-long programmes that are being planned in the memory of Mirabai.
32. **Directorate General of Civil Aviation** imposed a penalty of ten lakh Rupees on Air India for non-compliance of regulations.
Note: DGCA carried out inspections at Delhi, Kochi and Bangalore Airports of Scheduled Domestic Operators in the months of May and September this year.
33. Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the Global Professional Accountants Convention at Mahatma Mandir in **Gandhinagar**.
Note: More than 4000 delegates from over 25 countries will take part in the three-day event and discuss various aspects to shape the future of the accountancy profession at the global level. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal and ICAI President, Aniket Sunil Talati will also be present at the inaugural session.
34. Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the 8th Edition of the India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) in **New Delhi**.
Note: The theme of IWIS 2023 is 'Development vis-à-vis Land, Water and Rivers.' The summit, organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Center for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga).
35. **Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS)** launched the Ayurveda Gyan Naipunya Initiative (AGNI) for physicians practising in the field of Ayurveda in New Delhi.
Note: The initiative aims to promote research for mainstreaming pragmatic Ayurveda practices through scientific validation and evidence-based appraisal. The initiative also aims to undertake research for mainstreaming pragmatic practices through scientific validation and evidence-based appraisal.
36. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairy **Shri Parshottam Rupala** presented the National Gopal Ratna Awards on November 26, 2023.
Note: The National Gopal Ratna Award is one of the highest national honours in the livestock and dairy industries. It is given to recognise and promote all those engaged in this field, such as farmers growing indigenous animals, AI technicians, and dairy cooperative societies/milk producer companies/dairy farmers producers organisations.
37. The Narendra Modi government has decided to rename the Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres as **Ayushman Arogya Mandir**.
- Note:** Union Health Ministry asking all states and Union Territories to implement the rebranding exercise by the end of 2023. The Centre has also coined the tagline 'Arogyam Paramam Dhanam', a Sanskrit phrase that translates to 'health is the ultimate wealth'. While 'Arogyam' means health, 'Paramam' means ultimate and 'Dhanam' means wealth.
38. President Droupadi Murmu unveiled a statue of Dr BR Ambedkar on the Supreme Court premises during an event to mark **Constitution Day**.
Note: Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal were present on the occasion. The statue of BR Ambedkar, in a lawyer's gown, stands 7-feet-tall and is placed on a 3-feet base stand. The statue is seen holding a copy of the Constitution.
39. Asia's largest open-air annual trade fair Bali Jatra inaugurated in **Cuttack**.
Note: Asia's largest open-air annual trade fair, the Bali Jatra, commemorating the glorious ancient maritime legacy of Odisha, was inaugurated on the banks of the Mahanadi River in Cuttack. This year the festival started on the occasion of Kartika Purnima and will continue till December 4 next month.
40. Smriti Irani launches National Outreach Programme on Anganwadi Protocol for **Divyang Children**.
Note: The Protocol embraces a Social Model for Divyangjan Inclusive Nutrition Care. It includes screening for early disability signs, inclusion in community events, and referral support through ASHA and ANM teams. The aim of this protocol is to ensure overall improvement in children's wellbeing through early intervention, specialized support and services for infants and young children with disability, and educating and supporting families and communities to improve divyang children's participation.
41. Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates 'Classic Imperial' Luxury Cruise in **Kerala**.
Note: This event was a significant milestone in the efforts to promote cruise tourism in the region. The Union Minister commended the commissioning of the vessel, emphasizing the display of professional excellence and entrepreneurial skills.
42. Govt extends Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana for another **five years**.
Note: The Government has extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) for another five years from 1st of January 2024. Under the scheme, five kg of free food grains are being provided per month to over 81 crores poor in the country and Antyodaya households get 35 kg of free food grains per month.

Important News – State

1. Kerala's **Kozhikode** was officially designated as a Unesco City of Literature.
Note: This recognition makes Kozhikode the first city in India to receive this title. Unesco formally conveyed the honour to the Kozhikode Corporation as the city joined the ranks of 55 newly selected creative cities. Kozhikode Corporation Mayor Beena Philip expressed her enthusiasm for achievement, emphasizing that the "City of Literature" title is a remarkable acknowledgement of the city's.
2. According to Knight Frank's Prime Global Cities Index 2023 **Mumbai** recorded the fourth highest year-on-year growth in prime residential prices among global cities.
Note: The 6.5 percent increase in prime residential prices has moved the city up by 18 places from 22nd rank in September 2022. New Delhi and Bengaluru too recorded an upward movement in their index rankings. NCR moved from 36th rank a year ago to 10th in September 2023 with a growth of 4.1 per cent YoY.
3. The Ministry of Ayush will participate as the partner in the World Food India event to be held on **3rd to 5th November 2023**.
Note: Ayush start-ups from across the country will showcase newly developed Ayush Aahar products. It will showcase more than 30 newly developed Ayush products. The session will discuss the importance of the Ayush diet, the health benefits of the Ayush diet and the efforts to make Ayurveda a part of the daily lives of common people across the globe.
4. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the three-day 'India Manufacturing Show' in **Bengaluru**.
Note: The central theme of the event is 'Make in India, Make for the World'. The Raksha Mantri described the small-scale industries as the backbone of India's economy that contribute immensely to the development of the nation. "Small industries are the motor of the Indian economy. The faster the motor runs, the quicker the vehicle of the economy moves.
5. **Jharkhand** approved a Rs 1,485-crore electrification scheme and free training for 15 rookie pilots in the proposed pilot training academy in Dumka.
Note: A new scheme, Mukhya Mantri Ujjwal Jharkhand Yojana, has been approved by the cabinet and Rs 1,485.39 crore has been allocated for it. Under the scheme, un-electrified rural hamlets and households and leftover urban areas will be covered. The government has also decided to provide free training to 15 trainee pilots.
6. The crest of the Indian Navy's latest warship will be unveiled by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel at '**Surat**'.
Note: This is the first warship to be named after a city of Gujarat and this is also the first time the unveiling of the crest of a warship is being undertaken in the very city after which it has been named. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had launched this indigenously constructed ship, which is a guided missile destroyer, in March last year at Mumbai.
7. The First Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting is being held at **IIT Gandhinagar**.
Note: AIESC is a bi-national body established in 2011 to guide the strategic direction of the education and research partnerships between the two countries. Aim: To provide a platform for academic and skill experts to discuss a wide range of mutually agreed priorities, with the ultimate aim of shaping the future of education and skilling in both our nations.
8. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** has reportedly developed a potential solution to address the problem of air pollution in Delhi and its neighbouring regions.
Note: They propose the use of "artificial rains" through cloud seeding to help clear pollutants and dust from the air. The premier institute has been working on creating the necessary conditions for artificial rains for over five years and conducted successful trials in July.
9. Bharat Botanics announced the opening of its wood-pressed cold oil processing facility in **Gujarat**.
Note: This 16,000 square feet automated facility is one of its kind, promoting 100% hygiene and transparency. At Bharat Botanics facility, seeds are crushed using traditional "Wooden Ghani's" with the cold-pressed technique, resulting in natural, chemical-free edible oils rich in healthy nutrients, natural flavor, and a scintillating aroma
10. **Mundra Port** the flagship of APSEZ, has set another record by handling 16.1 MMT of cargo in October, the highest-ever volume by any port in India.
Note: It is the largest port in the country with 102 MMT of cargo handled on year to date (YTD) basis, a good 9% Y-o-Y growth. The port crossed the 100 MMT mark in 210 days, surpassing the record of 231 days last year. Mundra witnessed double-digit growth on a Y-o-Y basis for containers (+10%) and liquids and gas (+14%).
11. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched 12 Goods and Services Tax (GST) Seva Kendras in **Gujarat**.
Note: The Union Finance Minister also gave away prizes to six customers with a cheque award of Rs 10 lakh to those who participated in the Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar scheme. The winners uploaded their valid GST bills to the app after making a purchase. Aim: To help to increase the ease of doing business in the country.
12. Uttar Pradesh government achieves **sixth** Guinness World Record by lighting 22.23 lakh diyas at 51 ghats of Ayodhya on Deepotsav on 11 November 2023.
Note: The event featured a Shobha Yatra with 18 tableaux at Ram Katha Park showcasing India's folk culture. Chief Minister Adityanath inaugurated a 3D holographic show, projection mapping, and laser show based on Ramayana
13. **Kozhikode** in Kerala and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh have made it to the prestigious creative cities list of

UNESCO for contributions in the fields of literature and music respectively.

Note: On World Cities Day, 55 cities join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). New cities were acknowledged for their strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity as part of their development strategies, and displaying innovative practices in human-centred urban planning

14. As part of this, IBM launched the Innovation Lab, in collaboration with AWS, at the IBM Client Experience Center in **Bengaluru**.
Note: IT major IBM and Amazon Web Services announced an expansion of their services to facilitate mutual clients operations and derive value from generative artificial intelligence (AI). Objective: To showcase the full potential of the joint value proposition that IBM and AWS offer to our clients from across the world.
15. **Uttarakhand** is reportedly set to become the first state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code
Note: The UCC is a proposal to formulate and implement personal laws that will apply uniformly to all citizens regardless of their religion, gender, or sexual orientation. Aim: To strengthen the social fabric, promote gender equality, and help fight economic, social, and religious inequalities. The code comes under Article 44 of the Constitution.
16. **Meghalaya** has launched the 'Food Security' Campaign, which focuses on sensitizing the public about the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 and strives to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 – 'Zero Hunger'.
Note: Objective: To create general awareness about food security being a right of the citizen and calls upon the public at ground zero community level to work together towards 'Zero Hunger' to meet the needs of the public at the bottom of the poverty pyramid.
17. **Assam Govt.** has officially given the nod to the merger of the Board of Secondary Education and the Assam Higher Secondary Education Council.
Note: The state is now set to establish a singular entity overseeing the realms of both Class 10 and Class 12 education boards in Assam. To develop, regulate, and supervise the standards and quality of School Education" in the region. Objective: To streamline and enhance the overall efficiency of the education system in the state.
18. Solar-Powered 'Ramayana' Vessels to Navigate Saryu River in **Ayodhya**.
Note: Two solar-powered mini-cruise ships is launched on the Saryu River in Ayodhya before the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Jan 2023. The service will be provided by Alaknanda Cruise, a company based in Varanasi. To offer a unique experience to those who wish to explore the river and its surroundings in a sustainable and eco-friendly manner.
19. Bihar Governor approves Bill raising reservation from 50% to **65%**.

Note: Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar approved the State Government's 'Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill' which was passed unanimously by the State Legislature. It was approved by the State Cabinet raises the reservation quota for Backward, Extremely Backward Classes, Sc and St from 50% to 65%. With 10% already reserved for Economically Weaker Sections the quota limit in Bihar has now been pushed to 75% well past the 50% ceiling set by the Supreme Court.

20. The Northeast Bay of Bengal is currently under the influence of a cyclonic storm named **Midhili**.
Note: Government authorities in several northeastern states have issued alerts following substantial rainfall, and the impact of the storm has been felt across various areas, affecting not only daily life but also cultural events.
21. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced former BCCI president and Indian cricket team captain **Sourav Ganguly** as the new brand ambassador of West Bengal.
Note: Ganguly would be replacing actor Shah Rukh Khan. He is a very popular figure and comes from the young generation. I want to inform him as the Bengal brand ambassador. Ganguly was present at BGBS' inaugural session at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in the city.
22. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma launched **Meghalaya Water Smart Kid Campaign**.
Note: This initiative is being run under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). It aims to educate children about the vital importance of water conservation. In an important step to generate a sense of responsibility and awareness among the young generation regarding water conservation.
23. Nagaland gears up for the 10-day Hornbill festival starting **December 1**.
Note: The event is held from December 1-10 every year at the Naga Heritage Village at Kisama, around 12 km from state capital Kohima. This year, Germany, the United States and Colombia are the official partner countries of the event. Seven tribes from eastern Nagaland will participate in the festival after a gap of two years.
24. The Maharashtra government has decided to name a street in Andheri West in honour of actor-director on his first death anniversary on November 26 -- **Vikram Chandrakant Gokhale**.
Note: The street is adjacent to the new headquarters of Cine & Television Artistes' Association (CINTAA) and CAWT. Gokhale, who passed away last year aged 77, was a past President of CINTAA (2017-2022).
25. Union Minister Anurag Thakur launched the First-ever Khelo India Para Games 2023 logo and mascot **Ujjwala** in New Delhi.
Note: 'Ujjwala' - a sparrow, was unveiled as the official mascot of Khelo India – Para Games 2023. The little sparrow is a symbol of the pride of Delhi and its uniqueness portrays determination and empathy.

26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the famous Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in **Tirumala, Andhra Pradesh**.
Note: PM Modi stayed at Tirumala overnight and went to offer prayers at Sri Venkateswara temple in the early hours today. At the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Tirumala, prayed for the good health, well-being and prosperity of 140 crore India
27. India's largest tiger reserve to be set up in **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: The Central government has approved a proposal to merge two wildlife sanctuaries in Madhya Pradesh to create the largest tiger reserve in the country spanning

2,300 square kilometres. The new tiger reserve will not only provide a safe haven for the area's tiger population, which currently stands at 16 but also boost tourism and development in the region.

28. **Bengaluru** will get a 287-km circular railway network in India.
Note: The network will be built in keeping with the city's requirements for the next 40-50 years, providing it "complete connectivity" over seven railway paths. While the project to build a circular railway has been talked about for a long time, this was the first time that it was confirmed by the highest levels of the government.

Honor & Awards

1. **Vihaan Talya Vikas** awarded the best photographer in his category at the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition held in London.
Note: Organized by the Natural History Museum, London, the competition showcases the finest wildlife photography from around the world. The event is also considered the 'Oscars of Photography'. His photo of a spider along with Krishna's carving clicked on the outskirts of the city and helped him bag the award
2. The 2nd Rohini Nayyar Prize 2023 for outstanding contribution to rural development was presented to **Deenanath Rajput**
Note: The prize was presented in memory of late economist-administrator Rohini Nayyar. It came with a trophy and cash prize of Rs 10 lakh. His work has included providing agricultural extension services to farmers and building cold storage infrastructure.
3. **Lionel Messi** won a record eighth Ballon d'Or for the best player in the world beating Norway's UEFA player of the year and treble winner Erling Haaland of Manchester City to the prestigious prize.
Note: Spain's Women's World Cup winner and Barcelona midfielder Aitana Bonmati won the women's Ballon d'Or. Earlier, Messi's World Cup-winning teammate Emiliano Martinez won the Lev Yashin award for the world's best goalkeeper.
4. Eminent writer **T. Padmanabhan** has been chosen for the Kerala Jyothi Award 2023 instituted by the Kerala government.
Note: He was selected for the highest civilian honour by the government considering his contributions in the field of Malayalam literature. The State also announced other 'Kerala Puraskarngals', the highest award given by the government to distinguished personalities who have made outstanding contributions in various spheres of social life.
5. **Nandini Das** has been named the winner of the 2023 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding, a leading international non-fiction prize,

for her book 'Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire'.

Note: The winning book is her debut and has been described by critics as the "true origin story of Britain and India told through England's first diplomatic mission to the Mughal courts".

6. **Reserve Bank of India** conferred the business line's 'Changemaker of the Year' 2023 award.
Note: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das attributed RBI's success in steering through Covid and other crises to the team work and diligence of its dedicated officers and employee force. These awards encompass various categories, celebrating those who have contributed to the betterment of society, the economy, and the planet.
7. **Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission** won the Global Responsible Tourism Award 2023 for promoting sustainable and women-inclusive initiatives.
Note: The award is instituted by the Responsible Tourism Partnership and International Centre for Responsible Tourism (ICRT) in the best for local sourcing, food, and craft category. This international award reflects the universal appeal of the Responsible Tourism projects that Kerala implemented.
8. **All India Football Federation** has secured its second Grassroots Football award in 2023, having earned the same recognition back in 2014.
Note: The accomplishment reflects AIFF's commitment to promoting football at the grassroots level, characterized by several innovative initiatives. AFC Member Association of the Year. Platinum: Uzbekistan Football Association. Diamond: Lebanese Football Association. Gold: Football Association of Hong Kong. Ruby: Guam Football Association.
9. **Salman Rushdie** received first-ever 'Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award'.
Note: World-renowned author Salman Rushdie has been awarded the first-ever 'Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award' by the Vaclav Havel Center The 'Disturbing the Peace Award to a Courageous Writer at Risk' was

- conferred upon Egyptian activist Alaa Abdel-Fattah. He also received another accolade, reflecting on the irony of being awarded for "disturbing the peace. He pondered which side of "the fence" this placed him on.
10. **JSW Infrastructure** Bags Award to Develop Greenfield Port in Karnataka for Rs 4,119 Crore.
Note: JSW Infrastructure has received a letter of award to develop an all-weather, deep-water, greenfield port at Keni Port in Karnataka on a public private partnership basis for Rs 4,119 crore. Keni Port is envisaged for handling all types of cargoes on the west coast to serve the industries in the area covering Bellary, Hosapete, Hubballi, Kalaburagi, and South Maharashtra.
 11. **Pedro Sanchez** re-elected as Spanish Prime Minister.
Note: In Spain, Socialist leader Pedro Sánchez has clinched the vote in parliament to lead the country for another term as prime minister. He won an absolute majority in the investiture vote, securing the support of 179 members of Spain's 350 Member Parliament.
 12. **Sheynis Palacios** won the Miss Universe crown at the 72nd edition of the fashion pageant.
Note: The show took place in San Salvador, El Salvador at Jose Adolfo Pineda Arena on November 19. Sheynis was also crowned as Miss Nicaragua 2023 earlier this year and has a strong social media presence. For the finale of Miss Universe 2023, Sheynis was seen wearing a stunning embellished body-hugging gown.
 13. **Deepti Babuta** has become the first woman to bag the Dhahan Prize.
Note: This is for the first time in its 10-year history that the top prize has gone to a woman. Alongside her, two other finalists -- Lahore-based Jameel Ahmad Paul and Mohali's Balijit were awarded \$10,000 CAD each.
 14. Tamil writer's novel 'Fire Bird', translated into English by Janani Kannan, won the 2023 JCB Prize for Literature in New Delhi -- **Perumal Murugan**.
Note: The book was published by Penguin Random House India. "In 'Fire Bird', Murugan takes a universal story of lives that are tied to land and tells it with astonishing particularity. Janani Kannan's translation carries into English the rhythms not only of Tamil but of an entire way of being in the world."
 15. **Ishwak Singh** won the Best Actor award at the **Stars Asian International Film Festival (SAIFF)** for his performance in the film 'Berlin'.
Note: The film "Berlin" has not only gained acclaim for Ishwak Singh's outstanding portrayal but has also enjoyed successful screenings at several film festivals.
 16. The Saffron of the mountainous has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry -- **Kishtwar district**.
Note: The spice is grown in some parts of the Kishtwar region of Jammu, along with parts of Kashmir. The legendary most expensive harvest of saffron, popularly known as Kumkum, is also a key cash crop in Jammu's isolated mountainous district of Kishtwar.
 17. **NHPC** has won the prestigious 'The Economic Times HR World Exceptional Employee Experience Award in the 'Large Scale Enterprise' category.
Note: The award was presented at a ceremony organized by ET HR World in Bengaluru. The award has been presented to NHPC in recognition of its wide range of employee centric human resource initiatives which are not limited to employees only but also extended to their families.
 18. Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India, inaugurated the 8th Edition of the India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) in **New Delhi**.
Note: The summit, organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Center for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (Ganga), spans three days from November 22 to 24, 2023. The theme of IWIS 2023 is 'Development vis-à-vis Land, Water and Rivers,'.
 19. Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the city's second floating compressed natural gas (CNG) mobile refueling unit (MRU) station at **Ravidas Ghat, Varanasi**.
Note: Earlier, Namo Ghat had a floating station for filling CNG in oats. CNG boats not only reduce pollution but also lead to savings as it is more efficient. The decision to set-up this floating CNG station is a testament to our belief in the transformative power of clean energy.
 20. Irish writer **Paul Lynch** has won the prestigious Booker Prize for fiction for his fifth novel, "Prophet Song".
Note: The dystopian novel is about a woman's struggle to protect her family as Ireland collapses into totalitarianism in the near future. A civil war in Ireland then forces families to flee the country. Paul Lynch, 46, spent four years writing the book and was brought to the thought by the long years of the civil war in Syria and the "West's indifference."
 21. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the World Climate Action Summit (WCAS) in **Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
Note: Mr. Modi will be present from November 30 to December 1 as part of WCAS proceedings. Summit is a 'high-level' segment of the 28th UN Climate Change Conference, being held under the presidency of UAE.
 22. Hollywood star **Michael Douglas** received the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema at the 54th IFFI in Goa.
Note: The 10-day film gala concluded with Germany's "Endless Borders " winning the coveted Golden Peacock Award for the best film. Deepak Kumar Mishra-directed show "Panchayat" season two bagged the best OTT series award, which was introduced for the first time.
 23. **Odisha pavilion** has bagged a gold medal in the 42nd IITF in New Delhi.
Note: The pavilion, with 24 stalls including handloom outlets and government departments, promoted the rich cultural heritage, handicrafts and handloom of Odisha. As many as 28 states and 8 Union Territories participated along with corporations from India and outside countries including Afghanistan, Vietnam, Tunisia, Kyrgyzstan,

- Lebanon, Iran, Bangladesh, Oman, Egypt, Nepal, Thailand, and UAE with their products and services in diverse fields
24. The Saudi Arabian capital **Riyadh** won the right to host the Expo 2030 world fair.
- Note:** Riyadh won 119 votes, Busan 29 and Rome 17, results from 182 members of the Paris-based Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) showed. South Korea's port city of Busan and Rome in Italy were also in

the running to host the five-yearly event that attracts millions of visitors and billions of dollars in investment.

25. **Abdullahi Mire** has been named the 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award Global Laureate.

Note: Abdullahi Mire born in Somalia, Mire grew up in the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya. He has put over 100,000 books in the hands of displaced children and youth in the country. He will be presented with the award at a ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland, on December 13, 2023.

Sports News

1. **Saudi Arabia** was the only football association to present a bid to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup before the deadline closed, soccer's global governing body FIFA confirmed.

Note: FIFA had invited bids from Asia and Oceania for the tournament and Saudi Arabia announced it would bid only minutes after the announcement. It also confirmed that the sole confirmation of interest in hosting the 2030 World Cup came from Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay, hosting celebratory games.

2. **Zahid Hussain** secured the silver medal at the prestigious Asian Shooting Championship 2023 held in South Korea.

Note: He would be representing his nation on the international stage at the Paris Olympics. Star India shooter Manu Bhaker secured her Paris 2024 Olympics quota after she finished fifth in the women's 25m pistol final. Arjun Babuta in men's 10 metre air rifle event and Sarabjot Singh in men's 10 metre air pistol event have also secured Paris 2024 quotas.

3. **Max Verstappen** split the Ferrari front row of Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz to snatch the lead of the Formula One Mexico City Grand Prix 2023 by the first corner.

Note: Red Bull's three-time season champion collected his third consecutive win at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez and broke his own season victories record set last year. Verstappen started from third and won from the same spot as he did in 2021.

4. **Mohammed Shami** created history with his match-winning five-wicket haul against Sri Lanka at the ODI World Cup.

Note: Overtaking bowling icons Zaheer Khan and Javagal Srinath, pace ace Shami became the leading wicket-taker for India at the ODI World Cup. He surpassed Javagal Srinath and Zaheer Khan's joint record, both of who have 44 wickets to their names. He has taken 14 wickets so far in just three matches in world cup 2023.

5. In Hockey, **India** dethroned Japan to crown themselves Asian Champions Trophy winners.

Note: India overcame the two-time champions through goals from Sangita Kumari, Neha, Laremsiami and Vandana Katariya. India won their maiden Asian Champions Trophy title in 2016 in Singapore, while

Japan bagged the crown twice, in 2013 and 2021. Asian Games champions China beat South Korea to secure third place.

6. **Bangladesh** will host the 24th Asian Archery Championships in 2025 after winning votes in the bid at the World Archery Asia Congress held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Note: A total of twenty four member countries of the Asian continent participated in the congress. Bangladesh and China applied for bids as host countries for the 24th Asian Archery Championship. The 23rd Asian Archery Championship will begin (Nov 5) in Bangkok, Thailand.

7. **Virat Kohli** hit an unbeaten 101 runs equaling Sachin Tendulkar's record of highest number of 49 centuries in One Day Internationals.

Note: Virat touched the milestone in 277 innings as against Tendulkar's 452 innings. He was adjudged Player of the match. The next batter on the list of most ODI centuries is current captain Rohit Sharma, who has scored 31 centuries. India is currently at Number one position with 14 points followed by South Africa at 2nd place with 12 points.

8. **India** beat Pakistan hockey in penalty shootout to finish its campaign with a bronze medal at the Sultan of Johor Cup 2023.

Note: Defending champion India bounced back from loss to Germany in the semifinals, defeating Pakistan to clinch its ninth medal in 11 editions of the under-21 tournament. This victory marked India's third title in the Sultan of Johor Cup. The junior men's hockey team had previously won the prestigious Johor Bahru Cup twice in 2013 and 2014.

9. **Angelo Mathews** batter was given "timed out" in a World Cup clash against Bangladesh, becoming the first man to suffer the dismissal in the 146-year history of international cricket.

Note: The former captain took more than two minutes to take strike and opposition skipper Shakib Al Hasan appealed, which was upheld by the on-field umpire. Mathews came into bat after the fall of Sadeera Samarawickrama in the 25th over but was unable to secure his helmet strap tightly enough.

10. Max Verstappen won the Brazilian Grand Prix 2023.

Note: Sergio Perez of Red Bull finished in fourth place, distancing himself from Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton in one of the few competitions left this season -- a position for runner-up. Perez nearly took the podium position from third-place Fernando Alonso of Aston Martin, but the Spaniard saw the checkered flag 0.053 seconds before the Mexican.

11. **Deepika Kumari** secured two gold medals and a silver at National game 2023.

Note: Meanwhile, Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won gold in the mens 50m Rifle 3-position shooting event in Manderem. In the recurve category, Maharashtra, currently leading the table, along with third-placed Haryana and Assam, claimed additional gold medals to conclude the archery events.

12. **Maharashtra** secured the first position in National Games 2023 and bagged 208 medals including 71 gold

Note: Services Sport Control Board also continued its second position in medal tally with a total of 117 medals including 59 Gold medals. Haryana stands at third position with a total of 161 medals including 53 gold medals. In women's Kabaddi, HP won a gold medal and Haryana got a silver medal. Female Kho-kho gold was won by Maharashtra and Odisha got a silver medal.

13. In Chess, **R Vaishali** defeated Mongolia's Batkhuyag Munguntuul to win FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2023 at the Isle of Man in UK.
Note: Vidit Gujrathi beat Alexandr Predke of Serbia to record his seventh victory in the event and take the top spot in open section. Vaishali became the first Indian to win the Grand Swiss and will have her task cut out in the Candidates alongside India's first woman Grandmaster - Koneru Humpy.

14. Australian Women's captain **Meg Lanning** has announced her retirement from international cricket.
Note: Meg Lanning quit international cricket after winning seven World Cup titles during a 241-match career. Lanning, with two ICC Women's Cricket World Cup wins and five ICC Women's T20 World Cup victories to her name, retires from cricket at 31. She has scored over 8,000 runs in all formats for her nation. She won her first ICC trophy at the T20 World Cup in Sri Lanka in 2012.

15. The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has suspended **Sri Lanka Cricket's (SLC)** membership with immediate effect for government interference in running the cricket board.

Note: The ICC said that Sri Lanka Cricket has breached its obligations of the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously. As per the ICC rule, there should be no government interference in the governance, regulation or administration of the cricket board. The Sri Lankan parliament has passed a resolution for sacking the cricket governing body of Sri Lanka.

16. India ended campaign at Asian Archery Championships with seven medals comprising three gold, a silver and three bronz in **Bangkok**

Note: In the Women's team final, Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur, and Aditi Gopichand Swami defeated Chinese Taipei in a thrilling contest to win the yellow metal. Kaur also won gold in the women's individual event after beating compatriot Vennam in the final. India won their second gold medal of the day after Swami and Priyansh beat Thailand in the final of the Mixed Team event.

17. West Indies mystery spinner **Sunil Narine** announced his retirement from international cricket.

Note: Narine played 6 Tests, 65 ODIs and 51 T20Is for the Windies in which he picked 21, 92 and 52 wickets respectively. Sunil Narine last played for the West Indies in August 2019 in a T20I match against India at Providence.

18. The ICC announced a trio of additions to the ICC Hall of Fame with Pakistan legend Abdul Qadir, England trailblazer Charlotte Edwards and West Indies great **Shivnarine Chanderpaul**.

Note: Pakistan spinner Qadir joins the ranks following an illustrious career that saw him appear in 67 Test matches and 104 ODI games for his country over a 13-year period.

19. Indian bowler **Mohammed Shami** becomes fastest to 50 wickets in ODI World Cup history.

Note: He successfully became the fastest Indian bowler to clinch 50 wickets in the history of ICC World Cup as the pacer achieved the milestone during his 17th innings. Earlier, Mitchell Starc was holding this record in 19 innings. Mohammed Shami is again bowling a magical spell for India and is very close to getting another fiver for Team India.

20. **Virat Kohli** surpassed Tendulkar's record of 49 centuries in ODI matches.

Note: Virat Kohli, the former Indian cricket captain, achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the first batter in the world to score 50 One Day International (ODI) centuries. He has not just scored his 50th ODI century but has also exemplified the spirit of excellence and perseverance that defines the best of sportsmanship. Kohli surpassed Tendulkar's 673-run mark set during the 2003 World Cup, showcasing his consistency and dominance on the world stage.

21. **Australia** lifted the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 defeating India.

Note: Virat Kohli was awarded with the "player of the tournament" title for his exemplary performance. Mohammed Shami finished as the leading wicket taker of the World Cup 2023.

22. **Novak Djokovic** won a record seventh ATP Finals title with a dominant victory over Jannik Sinner.

Note: He defeated local favorite Jannik Sinner in a commanding fashion with a 6-3, 6-3 victory.

23. The first edition of Khelo India Para-Games will be held in **New Delhi**.

Note: With over 1350 participants from across 32 states and UT's participating in 7 disciplines. It will be a game-

- changer in our quest to improve para-sports in our country and in identifying and aiding talented specially abled athletes.
24. Indian cueist **Pankaj Advani** win the IBSF World Billiards Championship title 2023.
Note: Trailing 26-180 in the first hour, Advani rallied to defeat the 2018 world champion Kothari 1000-416 in a rematch of last year's title clash in Kuala Lumpur.
 25. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has implemented a ban on cricketers from participating in international women's cricket at the highest level -- **Transgender**.
Note: This decision has raised discussions around inclusivity, athlete rights and the impact of the ban on transgender individuals. The move is said to be in alignment with the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) guidelines, considering cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Olympics.
 26. **Max Verstappen** won the Las Vegas Grand Prix 2023.
Note: Max Verstappen emerged on top at the end of an action-packed Las Vegas Grand Prix, beating Ferrari rival Charles Leclerc and Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez.
 27. Former West Indies batter **Marlon Samuels** was handed a six-year ban from all forms of cricket by the ICC.
Note: Samuels, who had an illustrious international cricket career playing 71 Tests, 207 ODIs, and 67 T20Is, faced charges related to his participation in the Abu Dhabi T10 league in 2019. The Emirates Cricket Board's anti-corruption code was violated on four counts, leading to charges by the ICC in September 2021.
 28. Pakistan all-rounder **Imad Wasim** has retired from international cricket with immediate effect.
Note: Imad Wasim has played 55 ODIs and 66 T20Is for Pakistan, and was part of the men's Champions Trophy-winning side in 2017.
 29. **Shubman Gil** has been appointed captain of Gujarat Titans.
Note: He takes over from Hardik Pandya, who was traded to Mumbai Indians. The 2024 season of the IPL will be Gill's first leadership assignment in senior cricket. Gujarat Titans is a professional franchise cricket team based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.
 30. Former Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) captain **Gautam Gambhir** has been named as the mentor of the franchise for the upcoming IPL season.
Note: Gambhir had a successful stint with KKR from 2011-17, leading the team to title victories in 2012 and 2014. He will work with KKR's head coach Chandrakant Pandit.
 31. Veteran cueist **Vidya Pillai** clinched the IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Championship title in Doha, Qatar.
Note: Vidya dominated her opponents throughout the championship, with a standout victory of 4-1 against compatriot Anupama Ramachandran in the title clash.
 32. **Namibia** qualified for the men's T20 World Cup 2024.
Note: According to ICC, Courtesy 10 points and a net run rate of +2.643 that assured them a top-two finish on the Africa region qualifiers points table. The T20 World Cup will be played in the West Indies and the USA from 4 June to 30 June 2024.
 33. **Uganda** qualifies for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.
Note: Uganda becoming only the fifth African nation to feature in the history of the competition. This will be Uganda's first-ever appearance in an ICC World Cup event. With five wins from their six games, Uganda has ensured a top-two finish in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Region Qualifier and booked its tickets for the T20 World Cup 2024 in the West Indies and USA.

Book and Author

1. **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** released a book on the snakes found in Himachal Pradesh.
Note: The book, titled 'Snakes of Himachal Pradesh', was compiled and edited by the principals of the State Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Omesh Kumar Bharti and DD Bisht. The book contains photographs of snakes at different locations in Himachal Pradesh, which have been documented and identified by a team of researchers led by Anita Malhotra.
2. **Prasoon Joshi** launched Dr. Hema Joshi's Book 'Do Palkon Ki Chhavn Main'.
Note: Hema Joshi is a former professor of English literature at Allahabad University. Her book is reportedly based on the fictional account of her own life and also narrates her love for two Indian cities — Almora, where she was born and Prayagraj.
3. A book, Thread by Thread, on the life of Shambhu Kumar or 'the' S Kumar has been released by **Kapil Dev**.
Note: Kapil Dev has been a brand ambassador for S.Kumars for their tv and print campaigns in the 80s and 2000s. The book has been written by noted journalist and author Sathya Saran and published by Penguin Random House.
4. Pranab Mukherjee's daughter pens his biography -- '**Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers**'.
Note: The book, titled 'Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers', is being brought out by Rupa Publications. The book is also a mirror to the father-daughter relationship between Pranab Mukherjee and Sharmishtha.

Science and Defence

1. India and **Singapore** decided to further boost interaction between their armed forces as well as cooperation in military technologies and industries.

Note: The two countries have also inked an implementing agreement on submarine rescue support between their navies. India is fortunate to have a defence partner like Singapore. The interaction will benefit both countries on many bilateral issues that are being pursued to further strengthen our special relationship.

2. The Number 4 Squadron (Oorials) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) based at Air Force Station Uttarlai (Barmer) is converting from the MiG-21 to the **Su-30 MKI**.

Note: The MiG-21 was the first supersonic fighter in service of the IAF and was inducted in 1963. The conversion of this squadron to Su-30 MKI implies that the IAF now operates only two squadrons of the MiG-21. The IAF remains committed to phasing out the MiG-21 aircraft by the year 2025.

3. In a significant development, India has given the Letter of Request to the French government for the procurement of **26 Rafale Marine fighter aircraft**

Note: As per the proposal, the Indian Navy will get 22 single-seated Rafale Marine aircraft along with four trainer aircraft. The aircraft carriers INS Vikramaditya and Vikrant have been operating the MiG-29s and need the Rafales for operations on both carriers.

4. The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre has approved **Aligarh Muslim University's** proposal for the development of the varsity's first satellite, to be named after its founder Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

Note: The SS AMU SAT is a nano satellite project which began in November 2021 under AMU Robo Club. It is a 3U CubeSat with multiple objectives, including the study of economic growth in India's poorest districts using satellite imagery.

5. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal will launch the domestic sailing of the first International Cruise Liner 'COSTA SERENA' in India at **Mumbai**

Note: Costa Cruises is expected to carry approximately 45,000 passengers in its next 2 months voyages. Such cruise initiatives are part of 'Dekho Apna Desh', launched on Prime Minister's appeal to the middle class to prefer domestic tourism over international.

6. The 33rd edition of annual International Maritime Boundary Line meeting between the representatives of Navies and Coast Guards of India and **Sri Lanka** was held at the Maritime Boundary Line off Point Calimere at Palk Bay.

Note: Aim: To discuss maritime security in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar region, safety of fishermen, measures to curtail trafficking of contraband, among other issues.

7. The induction of the Heron Mark-2 drones along with the planned induction of the **Hermes-900** drones is set to boost the surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities of the Indian Army.

Note: Aim: To boost the reconnaissance and surveillance capability of the Indian Army also their teaming with combat helicopters, which India is also expected to receive 31 General Atomics MQ-9B Sky Guardian drones for the Army and IAF.

8. Border forces of India and **Nepal** have expressed their commitment to strengthen bilateral security efforts by focussing on curbing trans-border crimes, smuggling of arms and ammunition, and combating human trafficking.

Note: Aim: To facilitate the movement of citizens from both nations, particularly during festive seasons. The decision was taken in the seventh annual Coordination Meeting between Sashastra Seema Bal of India and Armed Police Force of Nepal in New Delhi.

9. The fourth edition of bilateral exercise between Indian Navy and **Bangladesh** Navy, BONGOSAGAR-23, and the fifth edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) by the two navies were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal.

Note: Indian Navy Ships Kuthar, Kiltan and Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) Dornier took part in the exercise. Bangladesh Navy Ships Abu Bakr, Abu Ubaidah and MPA also took part in the exercise.

10. In a strategic move as part of the Indian Navy's mission-based deployment to West Africa and the Atlantic, **INS Sumedha** ship conducted a port call at Walvis Bay, Namibia, from November 10-13, 2023.

Note: Aim: To bolster maritime security, foster warm relations with Namibia, and demonstrate solidarity with its allies. Objective: To facilitate professional interactions, cross-deck visits, and social engagements with the Namibian Navy

11. India's indigenously developed aircraft **Tejas** stole the spotlight at the Dubai Airshow, showcasing its exceptional performance capabilities.

Note: It is a single-seat, single-jet engine, multi-role light fighter, that wowed spectators with precision during a series of thrilling aerobatic maneuvers. The Dubai Airshow provided a platform for Indian defense manufacturers to showcase the Tejas as a cost-effective and reliable option for countries seeking advanced fighter aircraft.

12. SpaceX launches its 29th cargo mission to the **International Space Station**

Note: SpaceX's next robotic cargo mission to the International Space Station CRS-29 has been take off. The

- mission is set to launch on a Falcon 9 from Launch Complex 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The CRS-29 mission carries crucial scientific experiments and technology demonstrations, including optical communications equipment and instruments for measuring atmospheric waves
13. The ninth edition of India and srilanka Joint Military exercise "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" held in **Pune**.
Note: The exercise is being conducted from 16th to 29th November 2023. Jointly rehearse conduct of Sub Conventional operations under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter. The Scope of the exercise includes synergising joint responses during counter-terrorist operations
14. Indian Navy Launches 4th Anti-Submarine Warfare Craft, named '**Amini**'.
Note: 'Amini', the fourth in a series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) projects built for the Indian Navy, was launched at Kattupalli in Tamil Nadu. The ship has been named 'Amini' to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to the island of Amini at Lakshadweep, located about 400 km west of Kochi.
15. The 14th edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise, "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023," kicked off at the Joint Training Node in **Meghalaya**.
Note: "VAJRA PRAHAR" has grown into a vital platform for the exchange of ideas and best practices between the Special Forces of both nations. It serves as a mechanism to enhance interoperability and strengthen defence cooperation between the armies of India and the United States of America.
16. The 17th edition of joint military exercise 'Surya Kiran' between India and Nepal started in **Uttarakhand**.
Note: The annual exercise, which is conducted alternately in the two countries, will conclude on December 7, 2023."Exercise Surya Kiran signifies the strong bonds of friendship, trust, and common cultural linkages that exist between India and Nepal.
17. India and Sri Lanka joint military exercise (Mitrashkti - 2023) culminated at Southern Command foreign training node at **Aundh,Pune**.
Note:The exercise has taught valuable lessons to the troops of the participating armies on conducting joint operations in support of peace.The conduct of this military exercise is also an important step to uphold the values of peace, prosperity, international brotherhood, and trust which is in line with security and growth for all in the Region.
18. Joint Military Exercise 'Austrahind' is being organized in **Australia**.
Note: The exercise is being conducted in Western Australia's Perth from November 22 to December 6.The aim of the exercise is to foster collaborative partnership and share best practices between the two nations.The Indian Army contingent comprises 60 personnel from a battalion of the Gorkha Rifles.

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